

I. AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 17 and 66 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendment to claim 15, as shown below.

Please enter new claim 68, as shown below.

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) An *in vitro* screening assay for determining a candidate agent's diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase (DGAT) inhibitory activity, said assay comprising:

(a) contacting a DGAT polypeptide with said candidate agent, wherein said DGAT polypeptide exhibits diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase activity, and wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 98% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6; and

(b) detecting a change in DGAT enzymatic activity of said DGAT polypeptide compared to a control to determine said candidate agent's DGAT inhibitory activity, wherein said detecting comprises detecting incorporation of a detectably labeled fatty acyl CoA into a diacylglycerol acceptor.

16.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

19.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The screening assay according to Claim 15, wherein said contacting comprises introducing said candidate agent into a cell that includes said DGAT polypeptide.

22.-67. (Canceled)

68. (New) An *in vitro* screening assay for determining a candidate agent's diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase (DGAT) inhibitory activity, said assay comprising:

(a) contacting a DGAT polypeptide with said candidate agent, wherein said DGAT polypeptide exhibits diacylglycerol-*O*-acyltransferase activity, and wherein said DGAT polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 98% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6; and

(b) detecting a change in DGAT enzymatic activity of said DGAT polypeptide compared to a control to determine said candidate agent's DGAT inhibitory activity, wherein said detecting comprises detecting incorporation of fatty acyl CoA into a detectably labeled diacylglycerol acceptor.